

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8 and 10 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 7 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and claims 1, 4, 6 and 10 are amended. Claims 1, 6 and 10 are amended to recite features supported in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0023] – [0035] and Fig. 3. Claim 4 is amended to correct claim dependency. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment Entry after Final Rejection

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: a) place the application in condition for allowance for all the reasons discussed herein; b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration; c) place the application in better condition for appeal if necessary; and d) address formal requirements of the Final Rejection and preceding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

II. Claims 1-6, 8 and 10 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Final Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over (e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0030728 to Kawashima *et al.* (hereinafter “Kawashima”). This rejection is rendered moot with respect to claims 7 and 9, and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

Kawashima does not teach or suggest a touch panel holder frame for an electronic device comprising a first positioning enclosure attached to a display device body along a portion of a plate thickness of the display body to surround a whole or a part of an outer periphery of a display screen, the first positioning enclosure having a first peripheral thickness, a second positioning enclosure attached to a touch panel to surround a whole or a part of an outer periphery of the touch panel, the second positioning enclosure having an

inner surface, the second positioning enclosure having a second peripheral thickness at a location where the touch panel is attached being substantially equal to the first peripheral thickness, a spacer section connected to and between the first positioning enclosure and the second positioning enclosure, the spacer section separating the display screen from the touch panel by a clearance distance, and a plurality of holding pawl sections provided on an inner surface of the second positioning enclosure for engaging the outer periphery of the touch panel to prevent the touch panel from coming out of the touch panel holder frame, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited for a holder frame for attaching into a touch screen panel casing in claim 10. These reasons apply by extension to claims 2, 3 and 8 based on their dependence from claim 1.

Moreover, Kawashima fails to teach or suggest a display device comprising a touch panel holder frame including first and second positioning enclosures and a spacer section, a panel casing that contains the touch panel holder frame, the panel casing including an opening, a display device body having an electronic display screen a touch panel having a touch detection area corresponding to the display screen, the touch detection area facing the opening of the panel casing, the first positioning enclosure attached to the display device body along a portion of a plate thickness of the display body to surround a whole or a part of an outer periphery of a display screen, the first positioning enclosure having a first peripheral thickness, the second positioning enclosure attached to the touch panel to surround a whole or a part of an outer periphery of the touch panel, the second positioning enclosure having an inner surface towards the opening of the panel casing, the second positioning enclosure having a second peripheral thickness at a location where the touch panel is attached being substantially equal to the first peripheral thickness, the spacer section connected to and between the first and second positioning enclosures, the spacer section separating the display screen from the touch panel by a clearance distance, and a plurality of holding pawl sections provided on the inner surface of the second positioning enclosure for engaging the outer

periphery of the touch panel to prevent the touch panel from coming out of the touch panel holder frame, as recited in claim 6. These reasons apply by extension to claims 4 and 5 based on their dependence from claim 6.

For example, the specification discloses various exemplary aspects of a display device including a holder frame (30) for holding a display device body (10) and a touch panel (20) within a panel casing (40) having an opening (42). The holder frame (30) includes first and second positioning enclosures (32, 34) and a spacer section (38) therebetween, with the positioning enclosures (32, 34) having substantially equivalent peripheral thicknesses from their outer peripheries facing the panel casing (40) to their inner peripheries adjacent the spacer section (38). The display device body (10) includes a display screen (12) on one planar surface and is supported along its periphery by the first positioning enclosure (32) along a portion of the planar thickness of the display device body (10). The touch panel (20) includes a touch detective area (22) on one planar surface facing the opening (42) and is supported along its periphery by the second positioning enclosure (34). The display device body (10) and the touch panel (20) are separated by the spacer section (38) by a nominal distance (f). The second positioning enclosure (34) includes holding pawl sections (36) to prevent removal of the touch panel (20) from the holder frame (30).

Instead, Kawashima discloses a touch panel assembly 2. In particular, Kawashima teaches a touch panel 10 having no reinforcement member and a front light unit 20 supported by a housing frame 50. A display device 30 is separated from the light unit 20 by a cushion 43 and a portion of the housing frame 50. A bottom frame 28 attaches around the housing frame 50 (paragraphs [0042] – [0052] and Figs. 1 and 2 of Kawashima). However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Kawashima of a panel casing containing a touch panel holder frame and having an opening through which faces a touch detection area of a touch panel. Nor does Kawashima teach or suggest first and second positioning enclosures having peripheral thicknesses substantially equal to each other, as provided in Applicants' claimed

features. In addition, Kawashima fails to teach or suggest the first positioning enclosure attached to a display device body along a portion of the device body's plate thickness.

The Final Office Action incorrectly analogizes the planar and circumferential portions of the bottom frame 28 as equivalent to the first and second enclosure portions, respectively, as recited in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that this association is erroneous. In particular, the bottom frame 28 may be considered more closely analogous to the panel casing, albeit absent an opening which the touch panel 10 faces, and housing frame 50 may be considered more closely analogous to the holder frame, albeit extending along the entire thickness of both the front light unit 20 and the display device 30, and having unequal peripheral thicknesses.

A claim must be literally disclosed for a proper rejection under §102. This requirement is satisfied "only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference" (MPEP §2131). Applicants assert that the Final Office Action fails to satisfy this requirement with Kawashima.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the independent claims are now patentable over the applied reference. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied reference for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Consequently, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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